

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 11122 190806Z

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /065 W

-----095981 190856Z /10

R 190726Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3276

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11122

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ID, MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA APPOINTED NEW MALAYSIAN
AMBASSADOR TO USSR

1. ACCORDING TO THE INDONESIAN PRESS, THE MALAYSIAN
AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA, DATUK ZAINAL ABIDIN BIN SULONG,
WILL BE DEPARTING FOR KUALA LUMPUR IN SEPTEMBER BEFORE
PROCEEDING TO MOSCOW TO TAKE UP HIS NEW POST AS AMBASSADOR
TO THE SOVIET UNION.

2. AMBASSADOR ZAINAL IS COMPLETING A FIVE-YEAR PLUS TERM
AS AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA. HIS APPOINTMENT TO INDONESIA
IN JULY, 1972 MARKED A TURNING POINT IN MALAYSIAN-INDONESIAN
RELATIONS NOT ONLY BECAUSE ZAINAL IS ONE OF MALAYSIA'S
MOST ABLE DIPLOMATS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE MALAYSIAN EMBASSY
IN JAKARTA HAD BEEN ELEVATED TO TOP RANK STATUS COMPARABLE
TO THOSE IN WASHINGTON AND LONDON. HIS NEW APPOINTMENT TO
MOSCOW MAY REFLECT MALAYSIA'S GROWING AWARENESS AND CONCERN
ABOUT SOVIET POLICY TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND DESIRE TO
PLACE IN MOSCOW AN AMBASSADOR WHO, WHILE FIRMLY COMMITTED
TO WESTERN IDEALS, HAS ALREADY DEVELOPED A FAVORABLE
IMPRESSION AMONG SOVIET OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE HAS COME IN
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CONTACT. OUR SUMMARY IMPRESSION OF AMBASSADOR ZAINAL IS
THAT HE IS A YOUNG-APPEARING, WELL-DRESSED, GOOD-LOOKING
AND QUIETLY PERSONABLE MALAYSIAN DIPLOMAT WHOSE REPUTATION
AS A SOLID PERFORMER HAD ALREADY PRECEDED HIS ARRIVAL TO
JAKARTA.

3. ZAINAL SERVED IN MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY POSTS FROM

1961-1972, HIS LAST POST JUST PRIOR TO HIS ASSIGNMENT TO
JAKARTA BEING A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL IN THE MINISTRY.
HIS ONLY OTHER FOREIGN EXPERIENCE, PART FROM HIS STINT IN
JAKARTA, WAS AS SECOND SECRETARY TO THE MALAYSIAN MISSION AT THE
UN (1958-61).

4. AMBASSADOR ZAINAL IS MARRIED TO SITI MAZNAH AND THEY
HAVE SEVERAL CHILDREN. BORN IN THE EAST COAST MALAYSIAN
PROVINCE OF KELANTAN, ZAINAL SPEAKS MALAY (HIS NATIVE TONGUE)
AND EXCELLENT ENGLISH.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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